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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,964	10/04/2004	Shoichi Ishikawa	1391.1061	1007

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EXAMINER

ADAMS, CHARLES D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2164

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,964

Applicant(s)

ISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles D. Adams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 7 November 2006, claims 1, 7, and 8 are amended, claim 2 is cancelled, and claim 9 is added per applicant's request. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (US Patent 6,073,137) in view of Yeung et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0093556).

As to claim 1, Brown et al. teaches a file management method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

Analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see column 6, lines 1-4 and column 6, lines 24-26. The remote mail sever contains folder configurations);

Creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 6:24-32 and 6:55-58. "The retrieved data is used to synchronize child folders so that the displayed list of child

folders matches the list from the server". The local version of the folder configuration is created in "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9). "Microsoft Outlook 98" provides a system of organizing messages (files). Thus, the folder configuration is created in a file system);

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information;

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Brown et al. as modified teaches performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration (see 6:58-65. The created folder is processed to correctly display subfolder indicia. Brown et al. also makes use of "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see Brown et al. 5:1-9), which provides for 'file processing'), wherein

the analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests (see Brown et al. 6:5-6. Analysis is performed upon a user request (expanding a folder)); and

When the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software (see Brown et al. 6:55-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of

Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches “a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure” (see paragraph [0077]);

As to claim 3, Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein mail data items are obtained from the mail software and are stored in corresponding folders created in the file system (see Brown et al. 6:24-32) and mail data and other files are managed in the file system under a same environment (see Brown et al. 5:1-9).

As to claim 5, Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein the folder configuration of the mail software is created on two or more storage units (see Brown et al. 4:35-48 and 3:11-23. The folder configuration is created in the remote memory storage and in the local cache).

As to claim 7, Brown et al. teaches a file management system for reading and filing documents by use of a file management software, comprising:

A folder configuration analysis section analyzing a folder configuration created on a mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see column 6, lines 1-4 and column 6, lines 24-26. The remote mail sever contains folder configurations); and

A folder configuration creation section creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 6:24-32 and 6:55-58. "The retrieved data is used to synchronize child folders so that the displayed list of child folders matches the list from the server". The local version of the folder configuration is created in "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9). "Microsoft Outlook 98" provides a system of organizing messages (files). Thus, the folder configuration is created in a file system)

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the information obtained by the folder configuration analysis section

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the information obtained by the folder configuration analysis section (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein file management is performed by executing filing processing for the file folder configuration created by the folder configuration creation section (see Brown et al. 6:58-65. The created folder is processed to correctly display subfolder indicia. Brown et al. also makes use of "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9), which provides for 'file processing'),

the analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests (see Brown et al. 6:5-6. Analysis is performed upon a user request (expanding a folder)), and

when the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software (see Brown et al. 6:55-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches “a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure” (see paragraph [0077]);

As to claim 8, Brown et al. teaches a computer-readable storage medium storing a program for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, the program executing:

Analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see column 6, lines 1-4 and column 6, lines 24-26. The remote mail sever contains folder configurations);

Creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 6:24-32 and 6:55-58. “The retrieved data is used to synchronize child folders so that the displayed list of child folders matches the list from the server”. The local version of the folder configuration is created in “Microsoft Outlook 98” (see 5:1-9). “Microsoft Outlook 98” provides a system of organizing messages (files). Thus, the folder configuration is created in a file system);

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information;

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Brown et al. as modified teaches performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration (see Brown et al. 6:58-65. The created folder is processed to correctly display subfolder indicia. Brown et al. also makes use of "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9), which provides for 'file processing'), wherein

The analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests (see Brown et al. 6:5-6. Analysis is performed upon a user request (expanding a folder)), and

When the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software (see Brown et al. 6:55-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches "a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document

management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure" (see paragraph [0077]).

As to claim 9, Brown et al. teaches a method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

Analyzing, at the time of the startup of the file management software, a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see 7:19-23. This is the first part of the process to compare and synchronize folders between the server and the client) ; and

Creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 7:25-55)

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information,

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name)

Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein

When the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software (see 7:25-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of

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Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches “a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure” (see paragraph [0077]).

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (US Patent 6,073,137) in view of Yeung et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0093556), and further in view of Sykes, JR. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2002/0129108).

As to claim 4, Brown et al. as modified teaches a file management method according to claim 1.

Brown et al. as modified does not teach wherein when a file is stored in a folder in the file system, a mail including information regarding a link to the file, detailed information of the file, and the file itself is transmitted to a mail address of a user, whereby the file is managed on the mail software.

Sykes, JR teaches wherein when a file is stored in a folder in the file system, a mail including information regarding a link to the file, detailed information of the file, and the file itself is transmitted to a mail address of a user, whereby the file is managed on the mail software (see Figures 2a and 2b, paragraphs [0010] and [0011]. When a message from the mail software is stored in the alternate file system, the system

transmits a receipt to the sender that includes the original message (file). The receipt includes information regarding a link (a sender is told that it exists and is archived), detailed information of the file (the original message), and, as stated, the original message itself. As the receipt is transmitted to the user via email, the user may then manage the file on his or her email software).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. by the teaching of Sykes, JR since Sykes, JR teaches that "a problem with electronic communications versus their paper-based counterparts is that some electronic communications can be altered, sometimes without detection, and thus it is difficult to verify what was sent, when it was sent, or when it was received" (see paragraph [0003]).

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (US Patent 6,073,137) in view of Yeung et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0093556), and further in view of Hendricks (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0033271).

Brown et al. as modified teaches a file management method of claim 5.

Brown et al. as modified does not teach wherein image data read by use of a scanner are simultaneously stored in the two or more storage units.

Hendricks as teaches wherein image data read by use of a scanner are simultaneously stored in the two or more storage units (see Hendricks paragraphs

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[0030]. Folders can be transferred to more than one user. Therefore, the folder configuration of the electronic mail software can be created on two or more storage units. Also see Yeung et al., paragraphs [0169] and [0170] for teaching acquiring image data by use of a scanner. Users can copy items between folders, which would make the item exist in two storage units).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. by the teaching of Hendricks, since Hendricks teaches “an improved e-mail system that provides an automated secure system to transfer e-mail folders” (see paragraph [0007]).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 7 November 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Brown fails to teach or suggest creating the same folder configuration in a file system. In response to this argument, Examiner notes that Brown et al. teaches “the sorted data is compared to the cached data and the cached data is updated to accurately reflect the current state of the message store hierarchy, which was retrieved from the mail server” (see 6:55-58). Brown is updating a local file system to match the file system that exists on a remote mail server. Therefore, Brown teaches creating the same folder configuration in a file system.

Applicant argues that Brown is capable of merely updating and displaying, which is carried out by two different types of email software, and does not teach or even suggest creating a folder configuration in a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of obtained information. In response to this argument, Examiner notes that Yeung et al. is relied upon to teach creating a folder configuration in a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of obtained information.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles D. Adams whose telephone number is (571) 272-3938. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M - F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Primary Examiner
Cam y Tung